

Background
Information on the
Yukon Territory

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YUKON

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Indian and
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Affaires indiennes
et du Nord

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Area and Population

The Yukon Territory, with its 207,076 square miles, is equal in area to the four Atlantic provinces. If the population, estimated at 17,000, and the geographic area are viewed together, it is apparent the population density is low, standing at eight persons per 100 square miles compared to 925 per 100 square miles in the ten Canadian provinces. The population is largely centred around the capital, Whitehorse, which contains half of the Yukon's inhabitants. The remainder is chiefly located in communities along the Alaska Highway, in service centres, and in mining communities.

Another feature of the Yukon is the relatively large native population. Throughout Canada, Indians and Eskimos make up only one per cent of the total population. In the Yukon about 16 per cent of the population is Indian. Tables I, II and III illustrate these facts.

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Population and Area Statistics

Table I:
Comparative Areas and Population

| Province or Territory | Area | Percentage | Population (1971 est.) | Percentage |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Yukon Territory | 207,076 | 5.4% | 17,000 | 0.08% |
| Newfoundland | 156,185 | 4.1% | 524,000 | 2.4% |
| New Brunswick | 28,354 | 0.7% | 632,000 | 2.9% |
| Nova Scotia | 21,425 | 0.6% | 770,000 | 3.5% |
| Prince Edward Island | 2,184 | 0.1% | 111,000 | 0.5% |
| Northwest Territories | 1,304,903 | 33.9% | 36,000 | 0.17% |
| Franklin | 549,253 | 14.3% | * | * |
| Keewatin | 228,160 | 5.9% | * | * |
| Mackenzie | 527,490 | 13.7% | * | * |
| Quebec | 594,860 | 15.4% | 6,030,000 | 27.6% |
| Ontario | 412,582 | 10.7% | 7,815,000 | 36.0% |
| British Columbia | 366,255 | 9.5% | 2,196,000 | 10.1% |
| Alberta | 255,285 | 6.6% | 1,634,000 | 7.5% |
| Saskatchewan | 251,700 | 6.5% | 928,000 | 4.3% |
| Manitoba | 251,000 | 6.5% | 988,000 | 4.6% |
| Canada | 3,851,809 | 100.0% | 21,681,000 | 100.0% |

*Not available

Table II:
Population Growth in the
Yukon Territory,
1931-1971

| Census Year | Population |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1931 | 4,230 |
| 1941 | 4,914 |
| 1951 | 9,096 |
| 1961 | 14,628 |
| 1966 | 14,382 |
| 1971 | 17,000 (Statistics Canada estimate) |

Table III:
Distribution of the Population
of the Yukon by Ethnic Groups
(Estimated)

| | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Indians | 2,337 (16%) | 2,477 (16.5%) | 2,562 (17%) | 2,484 (15.5%) | 2,700 (16%) |
| Others | 12,045 (84%) | 12,523 (83.5%) | 12,438 (83%) | 13,516 (84.5%) | 14,300 (84%) |
| Total | 14,382 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 16,000 | 17,000 |

Natural Resources

Geological Surveys conducted to date indicate that Canada's northern territories are potentially extremely rich in mineral deposits and in oil and gas. In the Yukon for example, mining production has advanced from \$14 million in 1967 to nearly \$80 million in 1970. The Yukon Territory also has an estimated 64,500 cubic miles of potential oil-bearing sediments.

The Yukon has other resources. Much of Canada's supply of fresh water, which is increasingly being recognized as a major natural resource, is found there. There are very substantial undeveloped hydro power resources capable of producing in excess of 25 billion KWH annually, enough to meet the entire need for one year of the three prairie provinces. The total Canadian production in 1968 was 180 billion KWH. Valuable stands of timber exist and is comparable in quality to stands in the interior of British Columbia and parts of Alberta.

In drawing attention to this great resource potential, it should be noted that the present economic base of the Yukon is limited in its diversity. Agriculture is an economically marginal activity because of climate and soil conditions, and a large scale manufacturing industry appears unlikely to develop in the foreseeable future. Tourism, game hunting and sport fishing are expanding in the Yukon.

To a large extent the future of the Yukon, therefore, is the future of the development of its natural resources and particularly its minerals, oil, forests, and water. While the resource potential has as yet hardly been touched, as demand increases in Canada and throughout the world, and as technological advances make it possible, the Yukon will inevitably be called upon to supply natural resources in increasing volume.

The natural resources of the Yukon, except game, are under the jurisdiction and control of the Government of Canada, which, with the Territorial Government, has formulated policies and programs designed to attract considerable capital required for development. To help overcome the high costs and risks involved in investing north of the 60th parallel, the Federal Government has developed over the years a broad program of incentives for private investors, including assistance towards the building of roads and airports, assistance towards mineral exploration, assistance for individual prospectors and assistance for town-site development. New Imperial copper in 1966, Clinton Creek asbestos in 1967, Mount Nansen and Arctic Mining gold in 1968, Anvil lead-zinc in 1969—all of these new mines received substantial support from the Federal Government in varying forms. There are excellent chances that these projects will be followed

by more in the years to come: one of the world's largest iron ore deposits is on the Snake River and further interesting mineral developments are being actively investigated.

In addition, the Federal Government itself is actively and directly involved in the development of the Yukon through the Northern Canada Power Commission, in the provision of electricity, through the Department of Public Works which maintains the Alaska Highway and the Haines Road, and through the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, particularly in connection with its extensive program of geological investigation and mapping work. Also and amongst its many other activities in the Yukon in direct support of resource and economic development, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has built and is con-

Constitutional Development

tinuing to extend a network of main highways in the Yukon.

Between 1965 and 1969 the Federal Government spent some \$62 million in the Yukon to assist in resource development. Direct revenues over this period were \$4 million.

Table IV illustrates the relationship between resource revenues and expenditures.

The Territorial Government has responsibility for those resources which have the most immediate bearing on the daily lives of individual northerners. In addition to game, this includes lands surrounding communities and settlements, which are being made the responsibility of the Commissioner.

The early history of the government of the Yukon is one with that of the Prairie Provinces. Canada acquired Rupert's Land and the North-western Territory shortly after Confederation. First provision for the administration of the area was made in the Temporary Government Act of 1869. This Act applied not only to what we now know as the Yukon Territory, but to an area including, as well, the present provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and northern parts of the province of Ontario and Quebec and northern Territories.

The era 1869-1912 was one of western expansion, population growth, birth of new provinces and the extension of provincial boundaries. Progressively, following periods of rapid growth of population and economic activity in their respective areas, the provinces of Manitoba (1870), Saskatchewan (1905) and Alberta (1905) appeared. The influx of miners to the Klondike gold fields led to the establishment of the Yukon as a separate territory in 1898.

Under the terms of the Yukon Act of 1898, the first Government of the Territory consisted of a Commissioner and a Council of not more than six members appointed by the Governor in Council to aid the Commissioner in the administration of the Territory. The Council included the judges of the Territorial Court of whom one or more was appointed by the Governor in Council. The Commissioner in Council was given legislative powers similar to those held by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. In 1899, the Act was amended to increase the membership of the Council to eight by the addition of two elected members who were to hold office for two years. In 1902, provision was made for three more elected members, bringing the membership up to a total of 11.

A fully-elected Council of ten members was introduced in 1908, when the Commissioner was prohibited from sitting in Council. By 1910, however, the Klondike gold rush was past its peak and, hastened by the First World War, population began to decline. In 1918, therefore, the Governor in Council was given authority by an amendment to the Yukon Act to abolish the elected Council and to substitute an appointed Council of two or more members. There were second thoughts about the exercise of these powers, however, and particularly those which dealt with the abolition of the elected Council, and in 1919 the Yukon Act was amended again to provide for a membership of three members on the Council, with the principle of election being retained. From 1919 until the end of World War II, the Territorial Government remained virtually unchanged. Increased population and rising prosperity made it reasonable in 1951, to in-

Main Features of the Yukon Government

crease the size of the Council to five elected members.

Between 1908 and 1960 there developed a strong tradition of separate legislative and executive powers. In the absence of any formal machinery whereby the executive and legislature could work together, frequent misunderstandings and sometimes deadlock occurred between the two branches of government. Beginning in 1960, there was some improvement when the prohibition against the Commissioner sitting in Council was removed and the Financial Advisory Committee, consisting of three members of the Council, was established to review territorial estimates before their presentation to the Council as a whole. These Committee members provided much detailed information on the estimate items when under study in Council.

In 1965, further changes were made. A Budget Programming Committee was set up which included three members of the Financial Advisory Committee and three

senior members of the Territorial Administration. Under this arrangement, the Budget Programming Committee worked out the estimates for each Department with the appropriate Department heads and approved by the Commissioner.

In November, 1970, an Executive Committee was established to assist the Commissioner in the exercise of his executive and administrative duties. This committee, which meets under the chairmanship of the Commissioner, consists of the two Assistant Commissioners and two councillors nominated by the Council and appointed by the Commissioner. There are two subcommittees of the Executive Committee. The Subcommittee on Finance, which replaced the Budget Programming Committee, is responsible for reviewing the territorial program forecast and estimates. The second subcommittee is charged with reviewing territorial legislation.

Under the Yukon Act, the executive authority is placed in the Commissioner, who is appointed by the Federal Government. In law, he is responsible to the Governor in Council through the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. He cannot spend territorial funds without the approval of Council and, in practice, he seeks Council's advice on major policy matters.

The Legislative Council is wholly elected and consists of seven members who serve for a term of four years. A Speaker from amongst the elected members presides over the Council while in session and the Commissioner is not a member. All qualified residents of the Yukon Territory, 19 years of age and over can vote in Territorial elections.

With the principal exception of natural resources, the Yukon Government plays an active role in most fields of endeavour for which the Canadian provinces are responsible. In the absence of municipal institutions throughout much of the terri-

tory, the Territorial Government also undertakes many functions which in the provinces, are normally the concern of local school boards and councils.

The Yukon has its own public service working under the direction of the Commissioner who was a resident of the Territory before his appointment. This is a complete territorial administration and with many years of experience in the administration of government functions.

Table IV:
Expenditures and Revenues-
Government of the
Yukon Territory 1971-72
(Estimated)

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Expenditures- | | |
| Operation and Maintenance | | \$19,648,000 |
| Amortization | | \$ 2,879,000 |
| Capital | | \$ 5,831,000 |
| Total Expenditures | | \$28,358,000 |
| Revenues and Recoveries- | | |
| Operation and Maintenance | | |
| Revenues | | \$ 6,382,000 |
| Recoveries | | |
| Operating Grant | | \$6,890,000 |
| Other Grants | | \$6,376,000 |
| Total Recoveries | | \$13,266,000 |
| Total Operation and Maintenance Revenues and Recoveries | | \$19,648,000 |
| Amortization | | |
| Amortization Grant | | \$2,636,000 |
| Other Grants | | \$ 243,000 |
| Total Amortization Recoveries | | \$2,879,000 |
| Capital | | |
| Project Capital Loans (Agreement) | | \$5,009,000 |
| Recoveries (Other) | | \$ 822,000 |
| Total Capital Recoveries | | \$5,831,000 |
| Total Revenues and Recoveries | | \$28,358,000 |

Table V:
Yukon Territory
Mineral Production Chart-
1966 to 1970
(Production Value in \$000s)

| Year | Silver | Lead | Copper | Zinc | Asbestos | Other Minerals (inc. gold) | Total |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------------------------|--------|
| 1966 | 5,868 | 2,387 | | 1,729 | | 1,992 | 11,976 |
| 1967 | 6,702 | 2,142 | 3,410 | 1,373 | 406 | 958 | 14,991 |
| 1968 | 4,806 | 971 | 5,097 | 748 | 8,684 | 1,059 | 21,365 |
| 1969 | 5,182 | 4,256 | 7,646 | 5,035 | 11,924 | 1,359 | 35,402 |
| 1970* | 7,890 | 21,748 | 9,001 | 24,847 | 15,173 | 983 | 79,642 |

*Preliminary figures.

| Année | Tableau V: Valeur de la production minière au Yukon, de 1966 à 1970 (en milliers de dollars) | | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--------|-------|---------|--------------------------------|
| | Argent | Plomb | Cuivre | Zinc | Amiante | Autres minéraux ou/ou compris) |
| | Total | | | | | |
| 1966 | 5,868 | 2,387 | 2,142 | 3,410 | 1,729 | 1,992 |
| 1967 | 6,702 | | | 1,373 | 406 | 958 |
| 1968 | 4,806 | | | 748 | 8,684 | 14,991 |
| 1969 | 4,182 | | | 5,097 | 7,646 | 21,365 |
| 1970* | 7,890 | | | 9,001 | 21,748 | 11,924 |
| | | | | 5,035 | 24,847 | 1,059 |
| | | | | 1,359 | | 21,365 |
| | | | | 1,359 | | 35,402 |
| | | | | 983 | | 79,642 |

*Chiffres provisoires.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Tableau IV: | Recettes et dépenses au Yukon, en 1971-1972. | (\$) |
| Dépenses | Exploitation et entretien Amortissements Investissements Total | 19,648,000 \$ 2,879,000 \$ 6,382,000 \$28,358,000 |
| (Estimations) | Expenses Maintenance and Amortization Investments Total | 19,648,000 \$ 2,879,000 \$ 6,382,000 \$28,358,000 |
| Recettes, dont sommes recouvrées | Exploitation et entretien Sommes recouvrées Subventions d'exploitation Autres subventions Total des sommes recouvrées | 6,382,000 \$ 6,890,000 \$ 6,376,000 \$13,266,000 |
| Recettes et dépenses | Exploitation et entretien Sommes recouvrées Subventions d'exploitation Autres subventions Total des sommes recouvrées | 6,382,000 \$ 6,890,000 \$ 6,376,000 \$13,266,000 |
| Amortissements | d'entretien, y compris les sommes recouvrées Subventions d'amortissement Autres subventions Total des sommes recouvrées au titre de l'amortissement | 19,648,000 \$ 2,636,000 \$ 243,000 \$ 2,879,000 |
| Investissements | Autres subventions d'amortissement Subventions pour investissements (en vertu d'accords) Sommes recouvrées (autres) Total des sommes obtenues pour investissements | 2,636,000 \$ 5,009,000 \$ 822,000 \$ 5,831,000 |
| Total des recettes, dont sommes recouvrées | Total des recettes, dont sommes recouvrées | \$28,358,000 |

Fonctionnement général du gouvernement du Yukon

Le Yukon a sa propre fonction publique, placée sous la direction du commissaire, lequel doit être un habitant de ce territoire avant sa nomination. Ce service constitue une administration complète, qui possède de nombreuses années d'expérience en matière de responsabilités gouvernementales.

Évolution constitutionnelle du Yukon

La première partie de l'histoire du gouvernement du Yukon est liée à celle des provinces des Prairies. En effet, c'est peu de temps après la Confédération que le Canada a-t-il la Terre de Rupert et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. L'administration de ces étendues fut d'abord quitté la Terre de Rupert et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Cet administrateur dans la Législation du Yukon, Cetement temporaire de 1869. Cette loi valait non seulement pour l'eten- mais aussi pour le territoire com- prenant les provinces actuelles du Manitoba, de la Saskatchewan et de l'Alberta, ainsi que les secteurs marquée par l'expansion de l'Ouest marquée par l'expansion de l'Ouest, l'accroissement de la population de notre pays, la naissance de nouvelles provinces et l'exten- sion des limites des provinces existantes. Peu à peu, grâce au développement rapide de la population et de l'activité économique de leur territoire respectif, les provinces du Manitoba (1870).

l'Energie, des Mines et des Ressources, qui a mis sur pied un important programme d'études géologiques et de cartographie. De plus, le ministère des Affaires internationales et du Nord canadien appuie l'expansion économique du Yukon ainsi, il a mené des routes qu'il continue à étendre. De 1965 à 1969, le gouvernement fédéral a dépensé quelque 62 millions de dollars afin d'aider au développement des ressources naturelles, tandis que le revenu obtenu de ces ressources, pendant cette même période, ne s'élèveait qu'à 4 millions de dollars.

Le gouvernement territorial a effectué des richesses qui ont un effet immédiat sur la vie quotidienne des habitants du Nord. Ces richesses comprennent, outre le gibier, les terres entourant les localités et les sites commerciaux, qui sont établissemens et relèvent de la responsabilité du Commissaire.

Richesses naturelles

des richesses forestières et son bois marachand peut se comparer, en qualité, à celui de l'intérieur de la Colombie-Britannique et de certaines parties de l'Alberta. En attrayant l'attention sur cet enorme potentiel de richesses, il faut aussi signaler l'absence de diversité qui caractérise l'économie de base actuelle du Yukon. L'agriculture est une activité marginale à cause du climat qui des conditions du sol, et il est improbable qu'une industrie de transformation se développe sur une grande échelle dans les prochaines années. Le tourisme, la chasse au gros gibier et la pêche sportive y sont en progrès. L'avvenir du Yukon réside donc, dans une large mesure, dans la nature, de ses richesses mise en valeur de ses minéraux, de son pétrole, de ses hydrocarbures, bien que son potentiel n'ait jusqu'ici été de ses ressources hydrauliques. Bien que ses forêts de la province des Prairies pour un an, la production canadienne totale atteignait, en 1968, 180 milliards de KWh. Le Yukon possède aussi des sources en minéraux, ainsi qu'en pétrole et en gaz. Au Yukon, par exemple, la production minière qui étais, en 1967, de 14 millions de dollars, devrait passer en 1970 à 64,500 millions cubes. Le Yukon possède d'autres richesses. La plus grande partie de l'appropriation en eau du Canada, reconnue de plus en plus comme une richesse naturelle des provinces, vient du Yukon. Il existe dans ce territoire des richesses hydro-électriques considérables, qui ne sont pas exploitées suffisamment et qui pourraient produire un excédent de 25 milliards de KWh par an, quantité suffisante pour satisfaire aux besoins de trois provinces des Prairies pour un an.

| Année de recensement | | Population | | Accroissement de la population du Yukon, de 1931 à 1971 | |
|---|--------------|----------------------|--------------|---|--|
| Année de recensement | Population | Année de recensement | Population | Année de recensement | Population |
| 1931 | 4,230 | 1941 | 4,914 | 1951 | 9,096 |
| 1961 | 14,628 | 1966 | 14,383 | 1971 | 17,000 (Estimations de Statistique Canada) |
| Tableau III: Répartition par groupes ethniques de la population du Yukon (Estimation) | | | | | |
| Indiens | 1,966 | 1967 | 1,968 | 1,969 | 1,970 |
| Non-Indiens | 11,127 (77%) | 11,653 (78%) | 12,700 (85%) | 13,500 (84%) | 14,300 (84%) |
| Total | 14,382 | 15,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 | 17,000 |

Statistiques de population et de superficie-Yukon

Tableau I:

| Données comparatives | Provinciale | Population | Superficie | Pourcentage |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Yukon | 0,08% | 17,000 | 207,076 | 5,4% |
| Terre-Neuve | 2,49 | 524,000 | 156,185 | 4,1% |
| Nouveau-Brunswick | 2,99 | 632,000 | 28,354 | 0,7% |
| Nouvelle-Ecosse | 3,59 | 770,000 | 21,425 | 0,6% |
| Île-du-Prince-Édouard | 3,59 | 111,000 | 2,184 | 0,1% |
| Terre-Neuve | 0,55% | 36,000 | 1,304,903 | 33,9% |
| Franklin | 0,17% | 36,000 | 549,253 | 14,3% |
| Keewatin | 0,17% | 228,160 | 527,490 | 5,9% |
| MacKenzie | 0,17% | 527,490 | 13,7% | * |
| Québec | 27,6% | 594,860 | 594,860 | 15,4% |
| Ontario | 36,0% | 412,582 | 366,255 | 10,7% |
| Colombie-Britannique | 10,1% | 2,196,000 | 366,255 | 9,5% |
| Alberta | 7,5% | 1,634,000 | 255,285 | 6,6% |
| Saskatchewan | 4,3% | 928,000 | 251,700 | 6,5% |
| Manitoba | 4,6% | 988,000 | 251,000 | 6,5% |
| Canada | 100,0% | 21,681,000 | 3,851,809 | 100,0% |

aucune donnée.

Superficie et population

La Yukon, avec ses 207,076 milles carrés, égale en superficie les quatre provinces maritimes. Lorsque l'on considère le chiffre de la population, qui est d'environ 17,000 habitants, dans tout le Canada, Indians et Eskimos forment seulement 1 p. 100 de la population totale. Au Yukon, environ 16 p. 100 de la population est d'origine indienne. Les tablaux I, II et III illustrent ces données.

Yukon est le chiffre relativement élevé de la population indigène. Dans tout le Canada, Indians et Eskimos forment seulement 1 p. 100 de la population totale. Au Yukon, environ 16 p. 100 de la population est d'origine indienne. Les tablaux I, II et III illustrent ces données.

La superficie et la population du Yukon sont en rapport avec les quatre provinces maritimes. Lorsque l'on considère le chiffre de la population, qui est d'environ 17,000 habitants, et l'étendue géographique du territoire, on constate combien la densité démographique est faible. Elle atteint à peine 8 personnes par 100 milles carrés, tandis que celle des provinces canadiennes réunies s'élève à 925 habitants pour la même surface. La population est surtout concentrée autour de la capitale, Whitehorse, puisque cette ville compte la moitié des habitants du Yukon. Le reste est disséminé dans des localités scèchelonnant le long de la route de l'Alaska, dans des centres de services et des centres miniers.

Date Due

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AUTHOR

Background information on the

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Yukon territory.

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